

IN THE WILDERNESS

THE BOOK OF NUMBERS

Week 1: A New Generation Commissioned

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

There are four crucial components for a group to maintain its health: Word, prayer, relationships, and reaching out. In this guide, you will study the biblical passage in three steps: observation, interpretation, and application. As the group leader, you are free to use any part of this guide that can assist you in achieving this goal.

CONNECT

- Briefly describe a time in your life when someone really poured into your growth—a parent, teacher, mentor.
- Has there ever been a time when you took the initiative to meaningfully contribute to the growth of another? What was that like?
- How do you see the practice of leadership development connecting to the call on the Church to make disciples of Christ?

INTRODUCTION

As we enter into the final narrative sections of Numbers, we observe all that Israel will become in the future being handed over to the next generation—yet the promise they are inheriting remains an ancient one. Despite having reached this point by way of so many hardships and sins, the call upon the Israelites remains the same as it has always been—to followers God and help others do the same. We can truly conclude then that **wherever you are in the wilderness, it is always time to make disciples and train leaders.**

OBSERVATIONS & INTERPRETATION

Read: Numbers 26:1-4; 63-65

Discuss: Israel made disciples—or more to the point, God made disciples through Israel. But, this new generation of God's people were formed in no small way through witnessing the sins of their parents and the subsequent fallout. What can we gather about God's determination to fulfill his mission despite human sin?

Read: Numbers 27:12-23, Deuteronomy 18:15-20

Discuss: The people of Israel must be led forward, yet Moses cannot be the one to do so. Without ever knowing why he would have to step out of leadership, Moses had already been pouring into Joshua for years. What can we learn about leadership development through Moses' investment into Joshua? What can we learn about developing leaders to come behind us from Joshua's character?

Highlight: Making disciples of Jesus is nonnegotiable for Christians. This means each of us will at times be led, and each of us will at times lead others. Taking seriously our own spiritual formation under the headship of others will better equip us to impart the same to others, ultimately bearing fruit of more effective ministry for all.

APPLICATION

- Who has God presently placed you under to grow and to mature? How are you engaging with that?
- Who has God placed in your life that you might pour into today or in the future? Is there anything that holds you back from this?
- What steps will you take to better pursue both?

PRAYER

Pray today that God will highlight areas of spiritual growth for you. Ask that he provide for you the right leaders to pour into you. Pray that God would also give you opportunities to contribute to the growth of others.